

## CULTURE

# Their turn: Promega employees show creativity

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For the Fitchburg Star

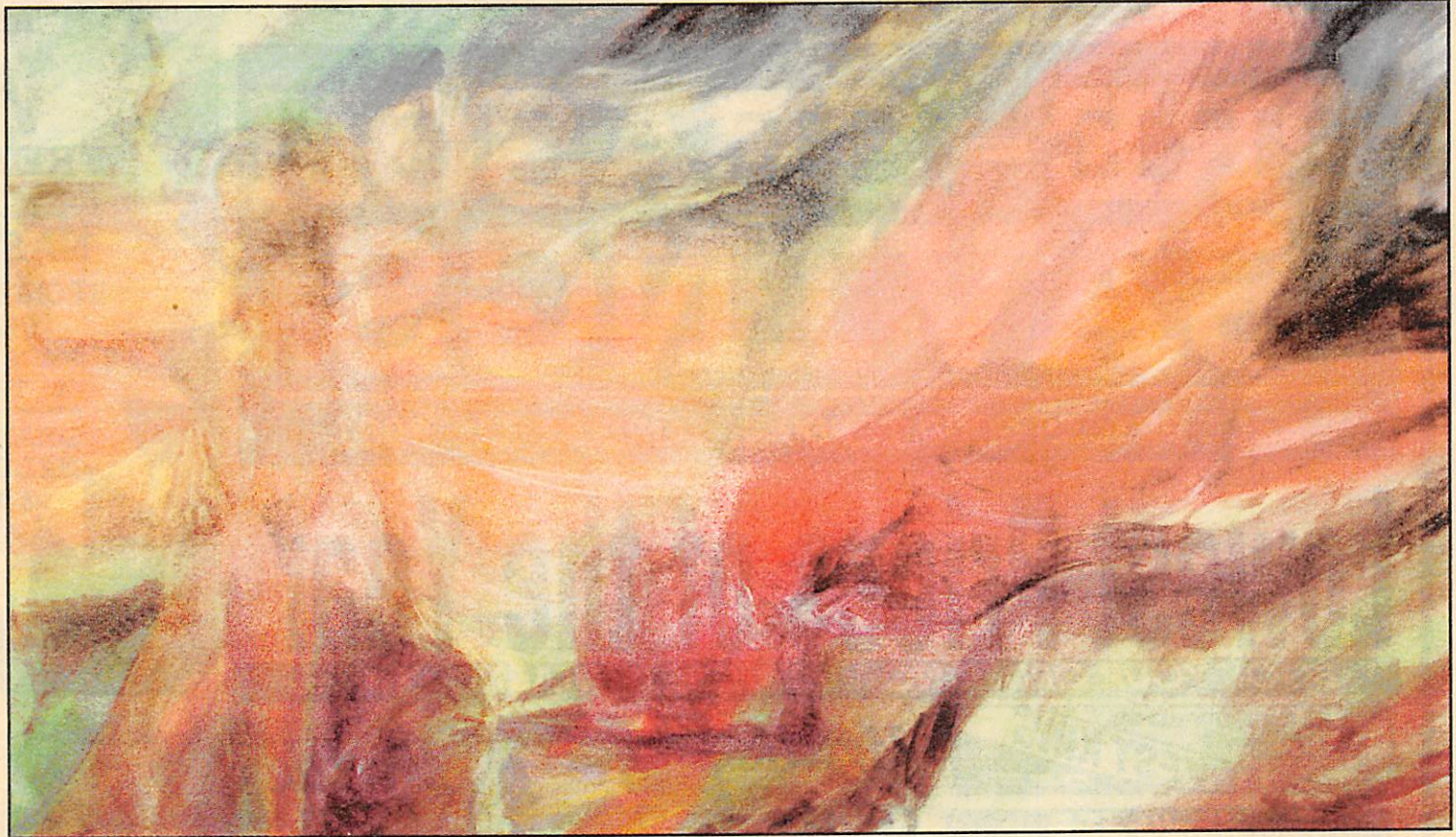
Opening night festivities at the annual Promega Employee Art exhibit were a celebration of creativity.

Children delighted in pointing out their artwork in the children's exhibition area, and were engaged in painting murals to be hung inside Promega's offices. Adding to the community spirit, the Oregon High School String Quintet supplied a steady backdrop of classical music as employees and art lovers conversed and browsed the gallery halls. This year's employee exhibit features 25 adult artists, and a wide variety of mediums including wood vessel sculpture, jewelry, graphite, watercolor, photography, and mixed media.

Scientist Kay Rashka chaired the employee art show committee with six other volunteers who have a keen interest in creativity and art. Rashka is also a talented jewelry maker who is exhibiting in the show. She hopes to receive more entries from employees in Japan, Europe, and their other International branches in future shows, although they did receive one work from Australia, which was received via e-mail, printed, and framed by the committee. She said they would like to do virtual imaging in the future by setting up an iMac that artists can send images to for display.

Of her five entries, one of Jane Sutter's most compelling works is *Winter Hearth*. She calls the canvas of orange swirls an experiment in color, motion, and putting no restraints on herself. It is about feeling happy and warm, and maybe a little dizzy, but mostly content. It's like being in front of a woodstove and being hypnotized by the fire. Exactly!

*Berry Boxes* is Sutter's first attempt with oil paints. She says she was preoccupied



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Jane Sutter's *Entangles* illustrates emerging dragonflies.

with Paul Cézanne's angular brushstrokes and his Impressionist palette at the time she painted the piece, in 1989. Similarly, *Paper City* has the same Impressionistic look, and it is an exercise in discovering angles.

In contrast to the lines and angles in *Berry Boxes* and *Paper City*, *Entangles* illustrates dragonflies she perceives as trying to

emerge, as if a sticky veil is thrown over them. The effect is that of forms rising from primordial mist.

Rashka adds an exotic element to the show with her jewelry inspired by West Africa, Thailand, and Afghanistan. Tanfouk Talisman Necklace incorporates the West African Carnelian, which, she says, is worn

to protect the wearer from the powers of the evil eye. Other pieces by Rashka incorporate 100-year old beads, opalescent glass trade beads, and antique East Indian silver beads and fobs.

Laura DePorter's *What Would Your*

Please turn to **Promega**, next page



## Promega

Continued from previous page

*Chickens Do With This?* displays the traditional Japanese art of Washi egg making. DePorter took eggs, blew out the yolks, shaped paper and applied it with rice glue, then finished with multiple layers of shellac. Her mastery of the art is gracefully and humorously displayed in a common American paper egg carton. The effect is very similar to Ukrainian Easter eggs, which are also prized for their handcrafted intricacy and unique style.

One of the show's edgier works is a large graphite portrait submitted by Anthony Corral, (son of employee Candice Corral). Titled *Girl with Cap on Tongue*, the work is realistic, the subject matter intriguing, and the dimension imposing.

Like Sutter, Angie Grainger shows a multitude of pieces, one of the most compelling being *Shakedown* — a bright tempura cartoon character jauntily sporting a zoot suit.

Michelle Arduengo's pastel watercolor, watercolor pencil, and watercolor crayon piece entitled *The Eyes Have It* captures a close-up of a cat's face, mostly the eyes. The effect is that the cat playfully peaks out of the framed mat, as if playing inside of a box.

*Untitled* by Tina Stuber is a patchwork quilt with a music theme. Piano keys and notes border the edges, and more musical notes are interspersed in the interior fabric.

### Children's art

*Winter is Coming* is a charming graphic depiction of nature by Jonathon Miles. The poem he wrote to accompany the mixed-watercolor reads: The birds are flying in the trees. Winter is coming. The birds are going south. Winter is coming. Jonathon is the son of Julie Miles.



Lori Veit

Carly Silveria's *A Dream of No End* is a collage of fabrics, paints, contact papers and construction papers.

Another entry in the children's area is *A Dream of No End* by Carly Silveria (daughter of Arleen Silveria). Her collage measures 24 x 10 inches and is made up of different fabrics, paints, contact papers and construction papers. Silveria's narration of the work reads: My dream was to have a family, and I hope this dream never ends. The medium of mixed media seems to allude to how individuals cut from different cloths together form a family.

### Innovation the catalyst

Promega's corporate communications manager, Anna Schryver, says Promega houses the art gallery in order to promote creativity. When the gallery was set up it was to really foster innovation, she said.

The biotech industry is all about new products, rushing to publish the latest news, according to Schryver. The exhibit is here every day, and it changes, she said, and that change is really important to change your environment, to help foster that creativity to get those juices flowing.

The exhibit will be on display until March 1, 2001.

*Promega Biopharmaceutical Technology Center is located at the Fitchburg Center, 5445 East Cheryl Parkway in Fitchburg. The exhibit is open to the general public Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., or by appointment.*